

## **COFECE notifies several economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility for a possible collusion in the sale of tortillas in Huixtla, Chiapas**

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its inquiry and issued the statement in which it indicates the probable existence of collusion.*
- *With the notification of this statement of probable responsibility the trial-like procedure initiates, in which the economic agents will be able to defend themselves from the imputations made against them.*

**Mexico City, March 10, 2022.-** The Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece or Commission) notified a statement of probable responsibility to several economic agents as it found evidence of a probable absolute monopolistic practice in the market of production, distribution and commercialization of corn tortillas in the municipality of Huixtla, Chiapas.

After concluding the inquiry, the Investigative Authority of COFECE issued an statement on the possible existence of an agreement to manipulate the prices and supply of corn tortilla by establishing the obligation not to produce, process, distribute or commercialize a restricted amount of it.

This investigation (file number DE-032-2019) is relevant because this type of illegal practices, also known as collusion, may have adverse effects on the welfare of consumers, since tortillas are an important product in the Mexican diet.

As of this moment, those identified for their probable responsibility in the aforementioned monopolistic conducts have the right to argue in their favor and offer evidence for their defense. Once these statements have been made, the evidence has been submitted and the corresponding arguments have been presented, the Board of Commissioners of COFECE will resolve in accordance with the law.

If it is proven that an illegal conduct was carried out, the economic agents could be sanctioned in accordance with the Federal Economic Competition Law. They could also face criminal proceedings with sanctions ranging from five to ten years of prison



Read [What is an absolute monopolistic practice?](#) (in Spanish) and [What are notifications of probable responsibility and what are they for?](#) (in Spanish)

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*The Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission is responsible for ensuring competition and free market access. In this way, it contributes to the people's welfare and the efficient functioning of the markets. Through its work, it seeks better conditions for consumers, that more services are offered with higher quality and that there is "level playing field" for companies.*

